

39. (Previously presented) A method of selectively inducing altered expression of a gene of interest in a plant, said method comprising stably incorporating into the genome of said plant the expression cassette of Claim 38 and inducing activation of the transcriptional regulatory element by exposing said plant to an auxin.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said induced alteration in gene expression occurs in one or more tissues selected from the group consisting of anther tissue, tapetum tissue, and meristem tissue.

41-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a transcriptional regulatory element responsive to the presence of auxin, wherein said polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of polynucleotides amplified from Zea mays nucleic acids using a primer consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

46. (Previously presented) A recombinant expression cassette, comprising a polynucleotide of interest operably linked, in sense or anti-sense orientation, to an isolated polynucleotide of Claim 45.

47. (Previously presented) A method of selectively inducing altered expression of a gene of interest in a plant, said method comprising stably incorporating into the genome of said plant the expression cassette of Claim 46 and inducing activation of the transcriptional regulatory element by exposing said plant to an auxin.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein said induced alteration in gene expression occurs in one or more tissues selected from the group consisting of anther tissue, tapetum tissue, and meristem tissue.